

The Board meeting of the Board of Education of the Oak Park and River Forest High School was held on Thursday evening, September 24, 2009, in the Board Room.

Call to Order President Millard called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The following Board of Education members were present: John C. Allen, IV; Jacques A. Conway; Terry Finnegan, Dr. Ralph H. Lee, Amy Leafe McCormack, Dr. Dietra D. Millard, and Sharon Patchak-Layman. Also present were: Dr. Attila J. Weninger, Superintendent; Jason Edgecombe, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Amy Hill, Director of Assessment and Research; Nathaniel L. Rouse, Principal; Cheryl L. Witham, Chief Financial Officer; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Liz Turcza, Student Council Liaison; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors The Board of Education welcomed the following visitors: Kay Foran, OPRFHS Communications and Community Relations Coordinator; James Paul Hunter, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; Naomi Hildner, OPRFHS faculty member, Judie Wilson of the League of Women Voters; three Concordia University students; Jason Dennis, Kristen Radamacher, Daniel King (student), Elizabeth Hennessey, Blair & Company, John Bokum, community member; and Terry Dean of the *Wednesday Journal*.

Student Recognition None

Visitor Comments Naomi Hildner inquired about the status of the OPRFHS Green Committee. Dr. Weninger reported that Mr. Lanenga continues to be the chair of this ongoing committee.

Board of Education Comments Mr. Finnegan congratulated those in the school community able to attend the lighted Stadium night games for making them wonderful events.

He also noted that the Board of Education had been copied on many emails from the community regarding the scheduling of a night game on Rosh Hashanah. He heard and respected the civil voices. He appreciated the response made by the Superintendent, the Principal, and the Athletic Director. He continued that it was a good resolution for the school to raise the issue of scheduling on religious holidays at the conference level. However, he stated that he would not hear those who did not have civil voices in the future.

Ms. McCormack echoed Mr. Finnegan's comments regarding the orchestration of events on the football field on Thursday and Friday, September 17 and 18. She thanked the community, the Superintendent, the staff, and the students for making both nights incredible. She hoped this would translate into greater student involvement, as there was great energy at these events.

Regarding Rosh Hashanah, Ms. McCormack had heard everyone voice about this emotional issue. She understood the point made and the dilemma. She

wanted to work with everyone in the school community and to respect the policies in place with regard to religion and other celebrations.

Although Ms. Patchak-Layman missed the stadium light celebration, she appreciated reading about it in the newspapers. She hoped that after Policy 3030, Athletic Fields and Stadium Lights, was approved for First Reading, it would be sent to the neighbors and to the SNAC Committee for their review and comment as well.

Ms. Patchak-Layman also appreciated receiving the draft of the Baldrige committee assignments. After attending the presentation by Todd Bloom and hearing staff comments, she asked to discuss this under the non-agenda item section. To her, the structure did not appear open and welcoming for all staff and community. She hoped for balance on the steering committee because presently it was heavily weighted with DLT members. She wanted to balance that with other interested faculty, staff, and Board of Education members in order for them to have a broad base of discussion. Baldrige is important for the school and she encouraged the composition of the committees to be faculty, support staff, administration, and students.

Mr. Allen reported that he had heard that the Baldrige presentations were well attended. The Baldrige process is a way to benefit this institution. He too attended the Friday Night game and commented on the spirit of joy and love of this school from all generations.

Mr. Conway thanked the Safety and Support Team and the other members of this school community for providing the security and guidance at the Friday night game. He offered them his respect for their dedication and their work. He also stated that the citizenry of these communities pick their fights, e.g., lights, football games, etc., but he was surprised that there was not more of an outcry about the article printed in the *Wednesday Journal* about diversity, referring to the fact that only 1 out of 36 teacher hires in District 97 was a minority. He expected more diversity in District 97's leadership positions.

Dr. Millard thanked all of the OPRFHS Safety and Support Personnel as well as the Oak Park and River Forest Police Department for helping to make the night games a success. She also applauded those who opposed the lights, as they were civil in letting the Board of Education know their objections. Several people who had worked to oppose the lights that evening and told her that it had gone as well as it could. She urged that the conversation on resolving whatever solutions were necessary to continue.

FOIA Requests

Dr. Millard reported that three FOIA requests were received and resolved.

**Board of Education
Agenda Changes**

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked that Consent Item D, Approval of Devon Alexander's Proposal, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Student Life

Ms. Turcza reported the following:

- 1) The Homecoming theme was Circus. She spoke about the decorations and the entertainers booked for this event.

- 2) Student Council had designed a flyer using geometrical diagrams to help students know the dance limitations in an amusing way.
- 3) The Friday spirit assembly was indescribable, albeit they hoped for a better football team. She was sure that the October 23 game under the lights would have an equally large turnout.
- 4) It had been a good start to the year.
- 5) Student Council was in constant communication with the Environmental Club. The structure of the building was being evaluated to see whether the senior class gift could be a roof top garden. While Ms. Hildner had written a grant to get a roof top garden, it was not accepted. She also wrote a grant for red worm composting.

Principal's Report

Mr. Rouse reported the following:

“The first game under the lights last Thursday evening was a huge success! There was an exceptional crowd for the Pepsi Showdown Soccer match vs. St. Charles North. The flip of the switch ceremony brought back many former Huskies, including former Superintendent Dr. Susan Bridge, as well as former Board of Education members.

“The light switch was flipped to the “on” position at halftime by Rob Euler, the father of OPRF goalie Sam Euler. Mr. Euler won the drawing sponsored by the Boosters Club. He thanked especially Boosters club president Fred Valentini and president-elect Jill Haas, and all those responsible for making the evening possible.

Mr. Rouse continued, “The Friday Night’s Game was amazing. Over 5,000 people with 750 of them in the visitors stands for the 2001st OPRF Huskie football game. He felt things went very well. He thanked OPRFHS Safety and Support staff, Food Service, Building and Grounds, and The Village of Oak Park Police Department, and a host of faculty, staff, and administrators who made certain that the evening was fun yet safe for all. Special thanks went to the students who for the most part were respectful of the community and dispersed quickly after the game. The next night football game is scheduled for Friday, October 23 against Downers Grove North High School.

On Tuesday, September 22, 2009, through the tireless efforts of World Languages Teacher Carol Ewald, OPRFHS welcomed about 15 to 20 German Exchange students to the high school. Ms. Ewald reported to him that OPRFHS is very fortunate to have such a fine school with which to collaborate from the students, the chaperones, the community, and the school. The high school in Germany, although small, is a leader in the protection of the environment in Hamburg. The school uses solar panels on its roof to produces energy for its building and recycled rainwater for their plumbing system. Four years ago, the German exchange group planted a tree opposite the entrance to the girls’ PE entrance. OPRFHS students planted a Ginko tree on their school grounds that year as well. He was extremely impressed with their intelligence. The German School System separates the most

intelligent/promising students at the end of their fourth grade and allows them to attend Gymnasiums.

“One of the things they especially liked about OPRFHS was the fact that OPRFHS was inclusive and accommodating for all. The German teachers and the principal of the Gymnasium were very impressed with the fact that an OPRFHS special needs student was permitted to take part in the exchange this year. This is a tribute to OPRFHS that all can benefit from co-curricular experiences, not just the most gifted. Mr. Rouse wished them safe travels to Germany the following day and thanked Ms. Ewald, the World Languages Division, and the host families for providing these students this positive experience.”

Foreign Exchange Student Report

Mr. Rouse reported that OPRFHS had six foreign exchange students attending OPRFHS this year. One student is from Bolivia, two from Germany, one from Denmark, and two from Japan.

Certification of 2009 Summer Graduates

Dr. Millard moved to certify the summer school graduates as presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Weninger provided the following information:

“Enrollment and Transfer Students

As of September 1, our enrollment was 3,316, all students included (Special Education and out-of-district placements). This is 223 students more than our highest projection of 3,093 from our demographer. Clearly, the economy had an effect, though we have not yet determined what other factors may have been in play. Also, per the attached, of the 223, 145 were transfer students. This leaves 78 students who, under normal circumstances, we would have been able to accommodate without too much difficulty. The 145 is a large number in addition to the 78. We will continue to report our enrollment monthly on our website, as we began doing that during my first year, 2007-2008.

“We improved upon our transfer student and parent orientation program this year such that we had 50 people attend v. 5 last year. Dinner from Chipotle was provided, and a presentation given similar to that for incoming freshmen parents during 8th grade and freshmen parent night. We also developed a Handbook for New OPRFHS Parents. A student and parent interaction/discussion session was held, and we asked participants how ORPF could make the process easier for transfer students and parents before classes begin and after classes have begun. Finally, a tour of the building was provided. The program was run by Mark Wilson, Assistant Principal for Student Services.

“Class Size

The enrollment issue above played the lion’s share of issues related to class size this first semester. There was also an issue of balancing class sections, and some other areas in which we need to make improvements; however, the surprising number of transfers clearly played the largest role. We have added two sections thus far to mitigate large class sizes: 1 in Spanish 5 and 1 in World History. We determined

that to make other changes even early on in the school year would have caused quite a disruption to other parts of students' schedules such that we chose not to do so. Class sizes are larger than we would like them to be, and we are working with Division Heads to look to second semester to identify those courses and sections in greatest need. With regard to some rumors, there were no English AP classes that exceed 27. The only section of AP Physics has 31 students in it. Slitting it would have resulted in sections of 15 and 16, and as noted above, disrupted these students' schedules to a large degree. It is not as easy as just adding a section that same period.

“Outdoor Athletic Facility Improvements

The following items were addressed this summer: a new section of visitor bleachers was added along with the concrete pad it sits on; two fence portions were replaced with black wrought iron, one of which is along Linden, and completes the project we began last year; the tennis courts were painted, as was the fencing around it; the scoreboard was re-wired; a new sound system was put into place in the stadium (and it's wonderful!); and of course, we now have lights on the stadium.

“National Merit Semifinalists/Achievement Winners

ORPF had 19 semi-finalists this year in the National Merit Competition, 2 semifinalists in the achievement competition for African American students, 2 semi-finalists in the Hispanic Recognition Program, and 1 honorable mention. The 19 semi-finalists (of which three were minority students) ranked sixth in Illinois, tied with Naperville Central, out of 148 schools. Only IMSA, New Trier, Stevenson, Hinsdale Central, and the University of Chicago Lab School had more. Evanston had nine.

“New Resource For Parents

A new link has been set up to the School Mailings page under Information for Parents/Guardians. This will allow a running, current file of all major mailings sent home and easily accessible reference for parents. They may remember they got something from OPRF in the mail last week but tossed it before figuring out whether it was something that pertained to them. Now, they will be able to check the School Mailings “folder” online to see what they missed, e.g. the principal's letter home; mailing regarding PSAT signup; Counselor's postcard about College info night meeting, etc. The new resource will be for mailings from September 14 onward, and will include those distributed through HuskiEmail, newsletter, and those posted briefly at the front of our website.

“Baldrige Organizational Assessment

The community will recall that the District is undertaking an organizational assessment using the Baldrige Education model. It is an “inward” look at how we operate as an organization and educational enterprise. We have engaged the services of a consultant to guide and facilitate this process. There is a steering committee comprised of a Board member (John Allen), the District Leadership Team or DLT, a Faculty Senate representative, a parent/ community member, and a student. There are also 6 criterion teams which are in the areas of Strategic Planning; Leadership; Student, Stakeholder & Market Focus; Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management; Workforce Focus; and Process Management. Each team will have Board, Administration, Faculty, Staff, Student, and Parent representation, as well.

“Yesterday, the consultant, Todd Bloom, was here for the entire day giving presentations before and after school, as well as during each of the 8 periods. The last session was videotaped for staff who could not attend during the day.

“Overall, there was interest in the Baldrige process and how to get involved. Attendees asked logical clarifying questions relative to the tactical issues of “when,” “how,” and “why.” Issues that appear to be in need of a response pertain, in particular, to the scheduling of the Criterion Teams and Steering Committee meetings. Additionally, a couple of attendees indicated that they thought additional introduction meetings, specifically for teaching staff, could benefit the overall buy-in for the Baldrige project.

“First Game Under the Lights

The first two official games under the lights were held with soccer as the first celebrated game on Thursday, September 17, and football on Friday, September 18. Both games were very well attended, and the capacity on Friday reached over 5,500 spectators such that ticket sales and passes were closed about 40 minutes into the game. A great deal of time was spent trying to mitigate issues related to: safety and security, traffic and parking, light, sound and noise, clean-up, landscaping, and enforcement. Both nights were virtually problem-free. An issue with restricted permit parking on Thursday night has been resolved for the future, and a few sound issues are being mitigated. Students were incredibly well behaved and respectful of the events. Several field hockey and soccer night games will occur yet this fall, and one more Friday night football game on October 23. By ordinance, there is a Stadium Neighborhood Advisory Committee or SNAC, which met before and after the first games, and will meet again later in the fall, and then again in the spring. Dr. Weninger thanked everyone who made the first few nights such great successes.

Dr. Weninger publicly recognized the following seven individuals and four groups: John Stelzer, Jack Lanenga, Kay Foran, Nate Rouse, Janel Bishop, Courtney Sakellaris, and Robert Zummallen. Their leadership made both nights a tremendous success and events for the school and community. The four groups are the Oak Park Police Department, Oak Park Fire Department, the Boosters, and *Wednesday Journal*. The police and fire departments were stellar in their collaboration and work with the high school, and without the Boosters’ spirit, energy, manpower, and loyalty, none of this would have been possible. The *Wednesday Journal* is to be thanked because on a very short timeline, they decided to publish the four-page wrap around highlighting the two nights, and this is what community is all about.

Homecoming

Homecoming is next week, September 28 – October 2. Friday night is the now annual powder puff game and block party on the mall; the game and dance are on Saturday.

“MSAN Annual Student Conference

Dr. Weninger spent the better of this morning at the annual Minority Student Achievement Network student conference in Skokie, IL, which is hosted by both OPRF and Evanston Township High School. He is very proud of OPRFHS teacher co-coordinators, Jessica Stovall and Devon Alexander, as well as the eight student representatives. He has asked that they report to the Board in October at a Committee meeting, as the conference was very powerful for them.

Crest

The crest that hung in the Student Activity Center has been replaced with a large, flat screen TV for student information. The crest is being refurbished and will hang in a place of honor right above the auditorium entrance.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 – October. OPRFHS is celebrating this by having a display case featuring the U.S. Supreme Court Justice and the staff with statement of pride and/or pictures of them with one full week highlighting Hispanic/Latino food in our cafeterias; and announcements.

Faculty Senate—Mr. Hunter owed the community and the parents a great deal of thanks, as he has not known a nicer group of students; everyone is complimentary of them. He hoped that the Board of Education knew that the faculty was excited about achieving and happy to further their success.

He appreciated the discussion of hiring at the Human Resources Committee and he hoped the Board of Education would create a plan to get the best and brightest at OPRFHS. He affirmed the faculty willingness to work with the Board of Education and administration.

Mr. Hunter thanked the Boosters for their strength and vision. He also thanked those who had done the work over the last ten years to support the athletic and academic interests in lighting the stadium.

Boosters—Mr. Conway stated that the Boosters had its first meeting in September. He concurred with Dr. Weninger that Boosters do a wonderful job for all students.

Alumni Association—Mr. Finnegan reported that the Alumni Association is working on a golf outing for the spring and its plans for Homecoming.

CTA—Ms. Patchak-Layman attended the CTA's first meeting of the year. The business was as follows:

- 1) Approval of a motion in support of musical performance credit. CTA feels strongly that performance grades should be included in the GPA and it wanted to be a part of the conversation regarding the GPA, even a formal seat at the table.
- 2) CTA will pay for the percussion and jazz clinics.
- 3) CTA students are playing at the Huskie Movie Fest.
- 4) Discussion ensued regarding the general scheduling of activities and that music activities and events should be on the master schedule. Coordination should occur with the IMEA regarding music competitions so that they do not fall on the same dates as the PSAT testing, as occasional conflicts occur with other activities being scheduled. Ms. Hill reported that no conflicts existed this year.

Dr. Millard suggested incorporating music performance and grading in a discussion. Dr. Lee will inform Christy Harris, CTA Chair, as to when the Instruction Committee will discuss this issue.

APPLE—APPLE was scheduled to meet October 6, at 7:00 p.m. Fliers were sent out. Both the English and Math Chairs will attend. Mr. Rouse stated that this was an opportunity for parents to meet these Division Heads and to discover the resources available to them.

ED-RED—Dr. Lee wanted to heighten the awareness of ED-RED as to what it is, what it is doing, and why OPRFHS is paying dues to be in the organization. ED-RED is a collaboration of northeastern Illinois school districts whose purpose is to help influence legislation in Springfield and to represent the suburban school districts in northeastern Illinois. Dr. Lee has attended three or four meetings and he informed the other Board of Education members of future meetings, their times and dates. He suggested that each Board of Education member receive ED-RED’s newsletter.

Oak Park Council of Governments Meetings—Dr. Millard and Dr. Weninger attended the Oak Park Council of Governments meeting. A report was given by each of the taxing bodies. Discussion ensued about how Evanston Township High School’s medical clinic within its school and if that might be something reasonable for OPRFHS’s future. The Township expressed an interest in this. Discussion will continue about a facility within the school and for students.

Consent Items

Mr. Allen moved to approve the consent items as follows:

- Approval of the Check Disbursements and Financial Resolutions dated September 24, 2009 (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting);
- July 2009 Treasurer’s Report; and
- Monthly July Financials;

seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Proposal by
Devon Alexander**

Ms. Patchak-Layman noted that Mr. Alexander’s original proposal had included a different cost and payment schedule. She wanted to make sure that the proposal forwarded reflected the content of the proposal and the hours, but not the monetary proposal. While she would support the proposal as presented, she was felt it had been worthy of the original amount (\$8,000 versus \$4,000) based on the value of work and not having a cadre of people in the building able to do it. Dr. Weninger reiterated that Mr. Alexander had developed the proposal at his request. Dr. Weninger was comfortable with the proposal as presented and the hourly rate is consistent with that of curriculum work within the District.

Dr. Millard encouraged all participating Board of Education members and all community members to be willing to participate sensitively and to “bare their souls” in order to make these conversations as effective as possible.

Policy 1320

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 1320, School Visitors, as presented; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes. Mr. Conway was absent for this vote. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if trespassing were a criminal act.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked what would happen at parent-teacher conferences if the parent's visiting privileges were revoked. Mr. Rouse responded to her question by saying that prior to that kind of situation, the parents would receive a certified letter with the rationale as to why they were not allowed to visit without administrative approval.

Policy 6160

Dr. Lee moved to amend Policy 6160, Academic Honesty, as presented at the Septembet 10, 2009 PEG Committee meeting; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Policy 3030

Dr. Lee moved to approve Policy 3030, Athletic Fields and Stadium Lighting, for First Reading, as presented; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Patchak-Layman reiterated her desire to have any specific events to which the lights might be used be listed in the policy, e.g., July 4, rather than making it more broad. Dr. Lee noted that if it were more specific, a policy change would be necessary for every event. He preferred leaving it as is and discussing this further when it comes up for second reading. Ms. Patchak-Layman was assured that after this were approved for First Reading, it be sent to the committee groups, SNAC, parent groups, and neighbors.

Resolution of Intent

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the Resoluition declaring the intention to avail of the provisions of Article 20 of the School Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and to issue Working Cash Fund Bonds of Consolidated High School District Number 200, Cook County, Illinois, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by the law; seconded by Ms. McCormack. A roll all vote resulted in six ayes. Mr. Conway voted nay. Motion carried.

Ms. Witham explained that the Director of Buildings and Grounds, the Superintendent, and Wight and Company have reviewed various audits, reports and requests concerning facility repair, maintenance and improvements. Members of the team categorized and prioritized the items in order to meet state deadlines and grouped them for efficiency and cost effectiveness. The Board of Education will be asked to approve construction projects much earlier in the year in order to seek bids earlier and, thereby, receive the best pricing and highest quantity of bidders available.

Wight & Company had performed the legally required Life Safety Audit. The audit indicated certain projects in need of completion within five years of the October 2007 audit date. Masonry work needs to be completed on the building soon and other items need addressing. The internal Facility Committee has too identified items regarding the instructional facility enhancements that it deems priorities. Ms. Witham presented a list of all of these items in an attached spreadsheet. She stated that the Board of Education's approval of the \$1 million Working Cash Fund Bonds which would allow the District to complete these tasks and cost effectively and efficiently as possible.

Ms. Hennessey offered to answer any Board of Education member questions, but first she wanted to inform them that OPRFHS had been rerated by Standards

and Poors and its rating had been upgraded to AAA. There are forty-nine (49) school districts in this country who have this distinction and nineteen (19) in Illinois because of the strength of the property tax base.

She explained that Public Act 96-0501, Debt Service Extension Base, provides that starting in the year 2009, the debt service extension base must be increased each year by the lesser of 5% or the CPI for the prior calendar year. This will allow school districts to issue a greater amount of non-referendum bonds including life safety bonds, working cash fund bonds and funding bonds within their respective statutory limits. In the case of the proposed refunding bonds, the new bonds could be accelerated even further, increasing savings and shortening the maturity. Due to the difficulty of estimating the CPI into the future, issuers must pledge additional funds to the repayment of the bonds just in case the CPI is less than anticipated. Therefore, it is important to be conservative with the assumption of future CPI increases and thus the estimated future CPI used is 1.5%.

She continued in her presentation that over time, the additional loss/collection extended by Cook County to cover shortfalls in the debt service extension accumulates in the debt service fund. Currently, the additional accumulation is estimated at \$1 million. The District can either abate debt service, use the funds to reduce the cost of the refunding and shorten the debt repayment or issue limited tax working cash fund bonds repayable in 30 days. The working cash fund bond proceeds can then be used for necessary capital projects. In order to issue working cash fund bonds the District must follow the petition period and public hearing processes prior to issuing the bonds. Once issued, the funds are deposited into the working cash fund. In order to spend the proceeds on capital projects, the working cash funds are transferred to the Education Fund, then following a public hearing, transferred to the O&M fund to be spent on the necessary capital projects.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked some clarifying questions to which Ms. Hennessey responded. The questions concerned the actual savings the District would incur and the process. Ms. Hennessey reviewed the charts she had presented.

Ms. Witham recommended taking advantage of new law, paying off the debt more quickly and using the \$1 million for capital projects. If the Board of Education choose to defer to capital projects, it would eventually cost the District more money. Ms. Patchak-Layman was hesitant to tell the community that these projects should be completed now. It will increase taxes slight in order to pay off the debt services, e.g., a 1.5% increase on the Bond and Interest Fund. The savings over the long term were noted on page 15 of the presentation.

Resolution to Amend Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the resolution amending the resolution providing for the issue not to exceed \$12,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding School Bonds, Series 2009, of Consolidated High School District Number 200, Cook County, Illinois; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Ms. Witham had explained that subsequent for the refinancing, Public Act 96-0501 was enacted, which enhances the savings possible in refinancing the

District's current debt. Ms. Hennessey recalculated the potential savings and provided an updated resolution.

Ms. Hennessey had explained that the parameters had not allowed refunding to go forward until there was a 3.25% or greater savings. Based on the initial option before the Act, the resolution was conservative and still holds but the savings should be greater. The additional cost to doing this is to have the ability to pay off the bonds more quickly. The goal is to get to 2018 and be virtually debt free when the District will be operating with less revenue than expenses.

**Chapman &
Culter**

Dr. Lee moved to approve the contract with Chapman and Cutler, LLP for bond counsel and disclosure services; seconded by Mr. Conway. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

**Personnel
Recommendations**

Dr. Millard moved to approve the personnel recommendations, as amended presented (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting); seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. Tarrant's name was deleted from this report in order for Mr. Edgecombe to verify his role as a coach.

**Standardized
Test Results**

Ms. Hill referred to the report on the Standardized Test Results in the packet, noting that this report was presented at the September Instruction Committee meeting. Ms. Hill reviewed the highlighted information in the written report (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting).

Ms. Hill noted that she would have a report at the November Instruction Committee meeting on a comparison of prep class scores.

Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if the school were looking more deeply at these scores. Should the scores of individual students be considered? Is that worth exploring? While Ms. Hill has done some of that exploration, it was not a report that that evening. She felt that if the school factored out free and reduced lunch students, then perhaps there would be a change in performance but not race. She was unsure what value it would add. She suggested, however, investigating what experiences these students were having in the building, e.g., their course taking patterns, their co-curricular involvements, attendance rates, etc. as those factors will influence outcomes and they are within the school's sphere of influence.

Dr. Millard suggested addressing this again at the Instruction Committee meeting.

**Approval of
Minutes and
Destruction of
Tapes**

Mr. Allen moved to approve the open and closed minutes of August 18, 24, 27, and September 8 and 14, 2009 and the Closed Session Minutes of August 18, 24, 27, and September 8 and 14, and 2009, and Declared that the Audiotapes of the closed sessions in January 2008 be destroyed; seconded by Dr. Lee. A roll call vote resulted in six ayes and one nay. Motion carried. Ms. Patchak-Layman voted nay because of the destruction of the tapes.

ISBE Application

Mr. Allen moved to approve the ISBE Application for Recognition of Schools,

For Recognition of Schools Assuring Compliance

assuring compliance with a number of criteria and requirements for the school districts (attached to and made a part of the minutes of this meeting), as presented; seconded by Mr. Finnegan. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Allen explained that between April and August no development of the criterion team for the Baldrige Assessment had occurred. Thus, he and Dr. Weninger reviewed the discussion at the Board of Education table, the contract, and the agreement on how the teams were to be set up and fit into each category. The steering committee is to be a guiding committee. The rest of the teams were composed of all other stakeholders, e.g., faculty, staff, board members, etc. He had included caseworkers and secretaries in the Baldrige Assessment at the State of Illinois and found them a very good resource. He noted that OPRFHS was the only educational institutional to include students and parents in this process.

The leadership roles are set, e.g. DLT and Mr. Allen. He asked the Board of Education for that privilege. If Board of Education members wanted to be on another committee, he suggested that they could switch. The structure of the stakeholders is mixed evenly between DLT members, Board of Education members, staff, students, parents, and teachers.

Dr. Weninger stated that while the intent of the Baldrige process is to be a look by senior level administrators, Todd Bloom honored the District's desire to involve parents and students. All of the meetings are 90 minutes in length and Mr. Bloom will facilitate most of them. There will be nine criterion meetings and six steering committee meetings.

While Ms. Patchak-Layman liked the format for the criterion teams, she was concerned about not having the same format for the steering team and suggested that the Criterion Team chair be a part of the steering committee. Mr. Allen noted that the consultant was adamant that the steering committee needed to be composed of the school's leadership. Ms. Patchak-Layman asked if DLT members were the chair of the criterion teams. She learned that Mr. Bloom facilitates the meetings and that there were no chairs. Ms. Patchak-Layman felt that a representative of the criterion team, not the DLT member, should be a part of the steering committee. She wanted the process even more open; the Steering Committee looked as if it has the responsibility of picking the priorities of the criterion team. Mr. Allen reiterated that the process was already more open as Mr. Bloom had allowed parents and students to participate.

Ms. Patchak-Layman continued that the only staff member present on the Steering Committee was a faculty member. She wanted to ensure that the voices were heard in the same way. Dr. Weninger stated that the steering committee should be composed of the senior administrators, as they need to look at how things work. Baldrige is meant to be a management look inwards as to how it performs its functions.

Dr. Weninger stated that the criterion teams will "bubble up" information and the steering committee will look at it and ask how they are doing their jobs.

While the model could be restructured, it has worked successfully in many school districts.

Dr. Lee noted that the District made the decision not to choose a facilitator, but to choose a process, the Baldrige process, not the OPRFHS process. The Board of Education needs to decide if it wants the Baldrige process or if it wants its own process. Dr. Millard suggested that Ms. Patchak-Layman pose these questions directly to Mr. Bloom as he offered to answer these types of questions via email or telephone.

Mr. Allen noted that there was a new law regarding FOIA.

Closed Session

At 10:09 p.m., on September 24, 2009, Ms. McCormack moved to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), as amended by PA. 93—57; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

At 1:30 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009, the Board of Education resumed its open session.

Adjournment

At 1:31 a.m., on Friday, September 25, 2009, Mr. Conway moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting; seconded by Mr. Allen. A roll call vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Dr. Dietra D. Millard
President

John C. Allen, IV
Secretary